

MASS. EX-110.2: B34

The Bay Circuit Program

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Massachusetts
Department of Environmental
Management

The Bay Circuit

What Resources Are Part of the Bay Circuit?

The Bay Circuit is a 100-mile crescent around the Massachusetts Bay, from Plum Island on the North Shore to Duxbury Bay on the South Shore. The goal of the Bay Circuit Program is to connect a series of parks and conservation lands with trails, waterways and scenic drives. The Bay Circuit will preserve the natural and historic heritage of the New England countryside surrounding Boston for the enjoyment of all.

The resources of the Bay Circuit are rich and varied. They include lands protected by local, state and federal governments as well as by private nonprofit organizations. The Bay Circuit Program works with local communities and nonprofit groups to identify and protect the trails, waterways and scenic drives that can connect existing public parks and conservation lands. The program also targets important conservation and recreation resources that should be protected and included as part of this unique 100-mile 'circuit.'



Trail corridors include pathways along rivers, open fields, former railroad beds, old public ways, forest trails and scenic roads. Hiking, bicycling and simple walking trails can both connect and provide access to recreation areas and places of natural beauty.

Scenic roadways abound in the Bay Circuit. These roads range in character and charm from country backroads to main streets with turn of the century storefronts.

Scenic landscapes: rolling fields, wetland meadows, oak and maple woodlands, church steeples in the distance, rocky coastlines, salt marshes, streams and rivers. Where else but in New England does one find gems like Plum Island, the Sudbury River and Duxbury so close to a major metropolitan center?

River corridors of the Bay Circuit, like the Ipswich, Charles and North rivers, traverse town, suburb and countryside. They provide drinking water, natural drainage systems, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and almost unlimited recreation possibilities.

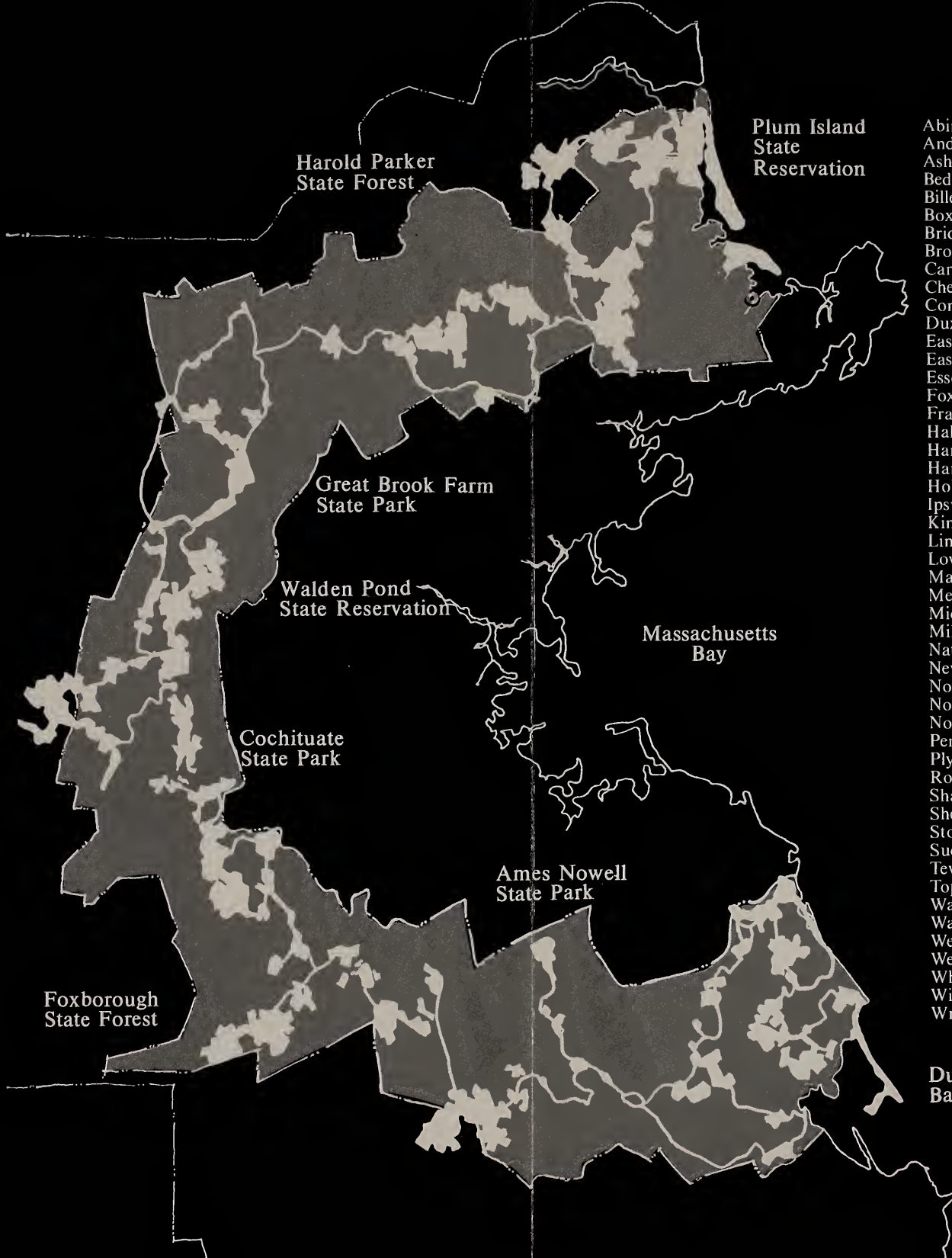
Recreation lands close to home provide the outdoor spaces that people need for fresh air and exercise, and for spending leisure time with nature, family and friends.

Coastal lands draw people of all ages, for swimming and sunbathing, and for enjoying the expanse of sky and sea and the quiet times of sunrise and sunset.

Rare natural resources have important roles in the balance of nature. Wildlife sanctuaries, cedar swamps and unique rock formations contribute to the diversity and richness of our world.

Cultural resources, such as Native American village sites, historic buildings and districts, and traditional New England farms and landscapes, enrich our sense of heritage and place.





Harold Parker
State Forest

Plum Island
State
Reservation

Great Brook Farm
State Park

Walden Pond
State Reservation

Massachusetts
Bay

Cochituate
State Park

Ames Nowell
State Park

Foxborough
State Forest

Duxbury
Bay

- Abington
- Andover
- Ashland
- Bedford
- Billerica
- Boxford
- Bridgewater
- Brockton
- Carlisle
- Chelmsford
- Concord
- Duxbury
- East Bridgewater
- Easton
- Essex
- Foxboro
- Framingham
- Halifax
- Hamilton
- Hanson
- Holliston
- Ipswich
- Kingston
- Lincoln
- Lowell
- Marshfield
- Medfield
- Middleton
- Millis
- Natick
- Newbury
- Norfolk
- North Andover
- North Reading
- Pembroke
- Plympton
- Rowley
- Sharon
- Sherborn
- Stoughton
- Sudbury
- Tewksbury
- Topsfield
- Walpole
- Wayland
- Wenham
- West Bridgewater
- Whitman
- Wilmington
- Wrentham

What Does The Bay Circuit Program Do?

In order to protect important conservation and recreation resources and to create a series of connected parks and conservation lands, the Bay Circuit Program undertakes the following activities:

Recreation and Public Access

The Bay Circuit is to be enjoyed.

The Bay Circuit Program:

- assists communities in planning local Bay Circuit recreational and promotional events.
- seeks to ensure easy public access to protected natural areas throughout the region.
- works to provide adequate parking and visitor facilities where necessary.
- publishes informational material on the program's activities.

Design and Management

Good maintenance and management of land is just as important as buying or protecting it.

The Bay Circuit Program:

- prepares masterplans for properties the Department of Environmental Management acquires.
- provides assistance to cities and towns to develop local trail and park management programs.



Land Protection

Land protection can be expensive and complex. It demands the cooperation of many agencies, organizations and individuals and the use of a variety of techniques and approaches.

The Bay Circuit Program:

- works to create a regional network of protected lands.
- focuses efforts on protecting resources which are not likely to be protected by other agencies and groups.
- coordinates land preservation efforts with other interested groups and government bodies.
- uses a variety of alternatives to outright acquisition, such as less-than-fee acquisition and cooperative ventures with nonprofit land trusts.



Local and Regional Planning

The goal of creating a regional network of parks and open spaces can be achieved only through the participation of local communities.

The Bay Circuit Program:

- assists communities with the development of open space plans. Open space plans identify conservation and recreation lands that are important to protect. They also specify the actions a community can take to protect them, including identifying sources of funding.
- provides planning grants to Bay Circuit cities and towns. In 1986, \$125,000 was awarded to twenty eight communities. Projects include creating local and regional trail systems, a recreation and conservation plan for a working cranberry bog, and municipal open space plans.
- encourages neighboring communities to work together. Projects range from planning a regional bikeway to protecting shared water resources.

The Department of Environmental Management, the state's primary land preservation agency and steward of the Commonwealth's forests and parks, is responsible for directing the Bay Circuit Program and for working with the fifty cities and towns designated as part of the Bay Circuit.

For more information contact:

The Bay Circuit Program
Division of Planning and Development
Department of Environmental Management
225 Friend Street
Boston, MA. 02114
(617) 727-3160

Governor's Advisory Committee

Gordon M. Baker, Director for Rural Massachusetts
Abigail Avery, Terra Club
Rita Barron, Charles River Watershed Association
Kenneth Bassett, Sasaki Associates, Landscape Architects
David Clapp, Massachusetts Audubon Society
Charles W. Eliot, II, Original proponent of Bay Circuit
David Lee, Stull and Lee, Architects
Robert Lemire, Land Use Consultant
Lawrence Morse, Ipswich River Watershed Association
Renee Robin, Harvard Program on Public Space Partnerships
Reed Stewart, Plymouth County Wildlands Trust
Larry Susskind, Southborough Open Land Foundation
Greg Watson, Massachusetts Centers of Excellence Center
Robert Yaro, Dir. of Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts

Office of the Governor

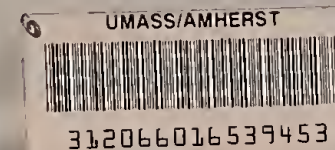
Michael S. Dukakis, Governor
James S. Hoyte, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
James Gutensohn, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Management

Photos

1. Framingham: photo courtesy Christina Dierker
2. Essex: photo courtesy Mark S. Finken
3. Hamilton: photo courtesy Mark S. Finken
4. Topsfield: photo courtesy Christina Dierker
5. Cover photo: Rowley: Christina Dierker

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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